

WOULD PLACE ARMY IN SOCIAL SYSTEM

Charles Johnson Post Suggests Plan to Suppress Specter of Militarism.

ARGUES FOR TRAINING IN GOVERNMENT SHOPS

Experiment, He Says, Will Develop Army of 450,000 Men in Four Years.

BY CHARLES JOHNSON POST.

This country needs an army. It needs it just as much as it needs a police force.

Such an army must be efficient; it must bear a relation to the probabilities of its service; it must be an army not merely for the sake of an army; it must be an army proportioned to our needs and to its social usefulness and the feudal elements in it of social and economic waste must be reduced to a minimum.

In other words, the army of our future must not be merely an increase in the size, in the raw bulk, of that feudal institution with feudal principles that has so far been retained. It must be a part of our social system, an instrument of social use and value in place of the heavy burden borne by society against the plunge of war.

The ideal system of army defense existed in those simpler times or exists today in those communities less complex than those with which we are generally familiar. In every frontier the ordinary struggle of survival was easily interchangeable with the necessities of camp and field. The hunting, the open life and the necessities of primitive existence were a constant training of youth along lines that made him the finest fighting material in the world. History is full of examples of the use of progress advances both the complexities of society and the arts of war, and the old interchangeable relationship is supplanted. Let this old relationship be re-established; take from the army the singleness of its rarely used function, let it be in times of peace an instrument of social use, of economic training as well as of military training, and the danger in our army system and not in the fact that men are taught to handle firearms or drill in masses.

Young Men at Formative Period.

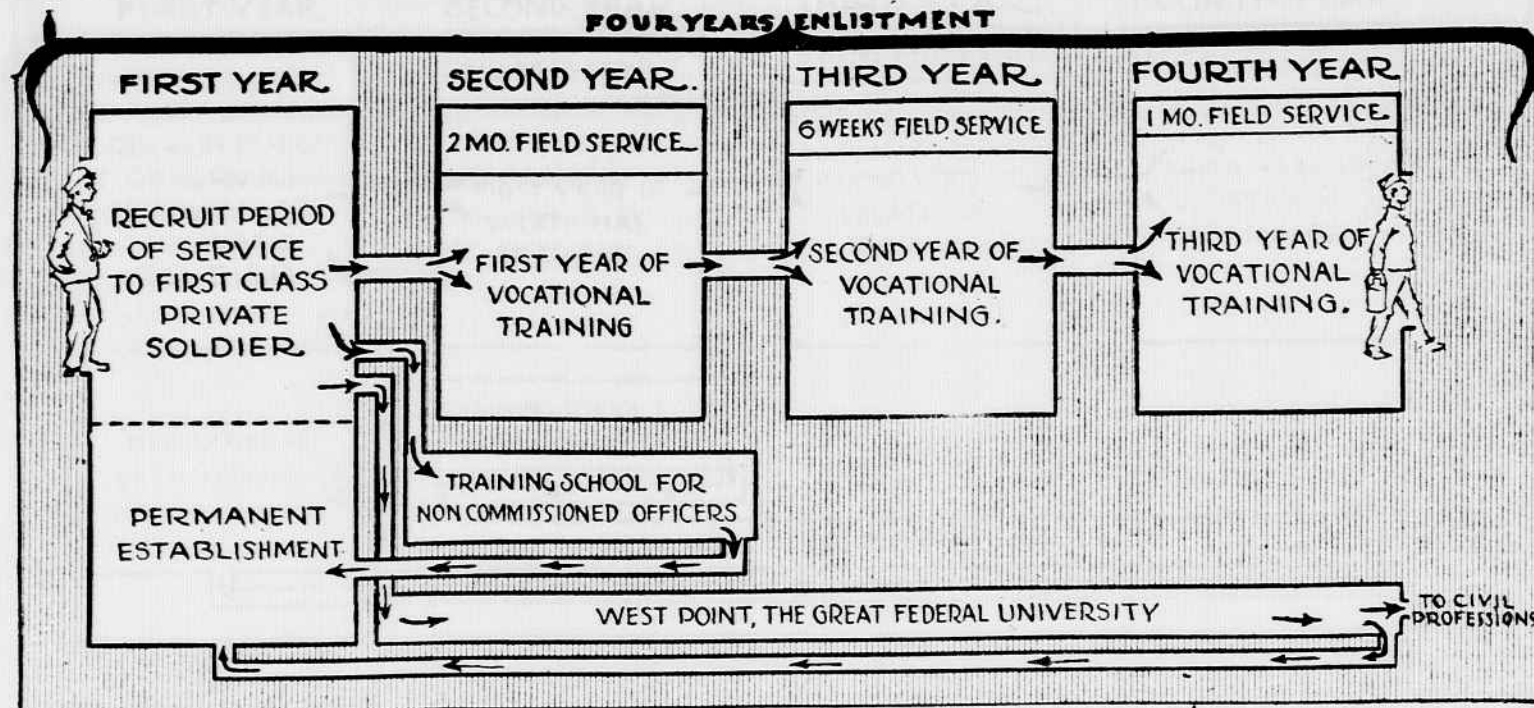
With certain special and technical exceptions our army—or, for that matter, any army—taking young men at the formative period of their manhood, gives them nothing that is of value in meeting the problems of life and livelihood that confront them on their return to civil society. On the present feudal basis our army training is, in its economic and social aspects, wasteful and demoralizing.

But take the feudalism out of the army; make it efficiently constructive in the time of peace as it is efficiently destructive in time of war; establish it along lines wherein young men may acquire the industrial equipment for industrial civil life that is ahead of them—give them these things as well as the requirements of military proficiency—and the country will have an army of defense in which there lies no more menace of militarism than exists in so many vocational schools or technical colleges.

It is along the lines of these principles that the following plan is based: Here is a plan for raising and maintaining an army adequate to our needs which neither in the raising nor in the maintenance of it would cripple our industrial resources, but, on the contrary, would in both respects prepare us for greater industrial development as well as to resist armed attack. The practicability of the plan seems to be obvious from a lay point of view. Its value from a military point of view is under consideration by the War College at Leavenworth.

Experiments in military training by the War Department have shown that a recruit can be turned into a soldier in less than a year of training. The present enlistment period is three years—two years of wasteful reiteration.

Let the recruit join the army for a term that will give him three years' apprenticeship at the trade of his choice; this period would be a fixed quantity. Preliminary to this he would serve through various degrees of military training until he had acquired



standing as a private of the first class. He could not enter upon his vocational apprenticeship until he was certified as a first-class private.

Plan of Vocational Training.

This vocational training would be in the government shops, in which the implements and munitions of war would be, in the largest measure, constructed. The army should be self-sustaining through its own manufactures in its own shops, but none of the articles so made should be sold at any time in competition with private manufacture. We think of government army shops as merely engaged in turning out guns. This is not so; in the army workshop there is and would be every activity drawn upon that is called into play in civil society. In gunmaking there is the finest kind of training for mechanics; range finders and the instruments of precision call for the higher mechanical skill in the naturally talented; gunnaries must be kept up in their plant—masonry, carpentry, plumbing—while the quartermaster's department, with its transportation equipment alone, is an enormous field for the acquiring of trades used in civil society. The list is limitless.

The adoption by the government of these functions would serve a double purpose—it would furnish the opportunity for a widespread industrial training that would react directly in the economic advantages of this country, with a population of highly skilled men constantly created, and it would eliminate the commercial interest that thrives best on war scares and war. The iniquitous Krupp monopoly, too, would be destroyed, and the warning they conveyed and to take preventive measures lest we be surprised. Moreover, war and all pertaining to it are matters of great national and individual sacrifice that it is intolerable that any class of army contractors should alone be protected in the profits that to all the rest of us spell destitution and death.

Retains His Equipment.

During this period of vocational training the young man would keep with him his uniform and equipment in a locker of his shop and be responsible for the condition thereof—much the same as in Switzerland. In the event of war he could be mobilized by changing from his shop clothes to his uniform—a matter of fifteen minutes or less.

During the first year of such vocational apprenticeship there would be two months' field service with the colors.

During the second year there would be six weeks' field service with the colors.

And during the third and final year of apprenticeship he would serve one month of field service. This would crystallize the military training of his first and preliminary military service, and would then pass back into the regular, permanent military or army establishment. A man would pass back with the rank of a private and the capacity of a sergeant—subsequent promotion depending upon his capacity in that branch. From this permanent section would be drawn the drill instructors and the minor officers of the whole military establishment. A permanent unit under our present system is in command of a section—three squads of twenty-four men, including three corporals. Allowing for staff details and the general necessities of an enlarged organization, there would be in this permanent section an army of sergeants each capable of taking command of sixteen volunteers. In other words, the army could be enlarged to meet any emergency, and a full equipment of the non-commissioned and com-

missioned officers, for non-commissioned officers in the permanent section would become officers in war time.

Those Trained as Soldiers.

And this takes no count of those men, first class privates and trade apprentices, who are trained as soldiers ready to step fully armed into the ranks.

There is one other phase of the matter that needs attention. Into the army would come men of the capacity of professional men, and with the ambition to achieve such rank. The trade school would limit their usefulness not only to society, but to the army establishment. There would also be men of the capacity of officers. At the present we regard the latter capacity as the only one to be encouraged, so we have West Point. But if it is sound in principle to educate American citizens for a certain governmental department it is equally sound to train them for other needed governmental service.

West Point should be more than a local academy on the Hudson. It should be a great federal university, open to all who can pass the necessary requirements. Every department under each cabinet officer has need of men with college training and technical degrees, and it is here that the graduates should be drafted for a certain period. There cannot be too much education among a people, nor can too many people have too much of it. This plan would abolish those stories of men struggling through college on peanuts and popcorn, and would permit a steady four-year diet. But that loss would be only of a mass of pathetic anecdotes and in no way reflect on the economic ability that would be represented in the country.

Let us be concrete and offer an illustration in figures. Assume an army of 100,000 apprentices a year—not a high number, as is well known to any who are familiar with the craving in the working classes that their boys shall have a trade—and a permanent establishment of 50,000 regulars. For the first year this means only 150,000 men.

The second year—with the next class of apprentices—it means 250,000 men. The third year 350,000. And the fourth year and every year thereafter 450,000 men ready in fifteen minutes after the bugle blows.

And this is not counting the possibilities that lie in expanding the very highly trained military specialists, comprising the 50,000 of the permanent establishment. Expand them by sixteen times—every private in a sergeant—and there are 800,000 men in a fully officered additional army. And these additional soldiers would be from the graduated apprentices, who should be held to respond to military service, in case of need, for a certain period after acquiring their trade in

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efficient posse comitatus, ready for indefinite expansion in time of need, in place of a feudalism; and it would replace itself usefully to the complexities of modern civilization in the functions of peace.

Gen. Leonard Wood Favors Post Plan for Industrial Training of U. S. Soldiers

BY MAJ. GEN. LEONARD WOOD.

The plan of army industrial and vocational training that has been worked out by Charles Johnson Post has many excellent points from the military point of view. This plan also is more complete in its development than any plan in army preparedness along vocational lines that I have so far seen.

It has been transmitted to the War College for study and report upon it. Mr. Post approaches the problem of army service from the angle of a volunteer army, while I personally believe that some form of universal training is absolutely essential; yet I believe that certain of the features of vocational training should be added to it.

His plan as a whole contemplates two things: (1) Efficiency as a soldier in military duties, and (2) the attainment of such efficiency under conditions that also prepare him for his return to the civil, industrial life. This would give a twofold efficiency to the country's military efficiency and an economic efficiency. Men would return to civil life not only better, but also more useful members of society. Such a system avoids any economic waste in a standing army.

Officers Alone Permanent.
What this country needs in the way

of an army is not an army of men who remain in it permanently, except officers and non-commissioned officers. It should be in the nature of a great military training organization, constantly giving back to society men of military efficiency against the days of emergency. This is one feature of this plan that is taken care of. Under it the actual period of military training is a variable factor, though the standard of efficiency for all is the same; for, as Mr. Post provides, no man can avail himself of the vocational apprenticeship until he has first become an efficient, first-class soldier. There is no confusion between these two periods, and it is necessary that they should be kept as distinct periods, even under the term of the single enlistment.

In brief, Mr. Post's plan proposes to give an opportunity to considerable portions of men under training as soldiers to secure, during the course of that training, an increase in their wage-earning capacity, so that they are sent back to society and civil life not only ready as a soldier, but prepared for a higher degree of economic citizenship. This is a good idea if it can be put into operation without unduly extending the period of military service.

One of the great problems we have in this country is considerably due to the fact that great portions of our population develop in racial areas, reading a dialect press and controlled in the intervening years by dialect interests. Some sort of a community of service must be established in order to develop a power and necessary appreciation of the duties and obligations of American citizenship—for equality of opportunity means an equality of obligations. I believe that the best method is by some sort of systematized military training—a universal character wherein Mr. Van Rensselaer will rub shoulders in the ranks with Podanski; under such service how long would it be before there is established a fellowship—an appreciation of what a democracy is and means, and

of what American citizenship opens up? These large racial areas come from countries of racial oppression.

Gets Knowledge and Discipline.

We must have some plan. And I believe that military training is invaluable for the purpose. I am anxious to see some form of the Australian or Swiss military systems adopted here. A man gets in military training control of his body—knowledge of health for himself and of preventable diseases that is of benefit to himself, his family and to posterity; he gets discipline—knowledge of the relationship of himself to social and economic forces; he learns to co-ordinate himself with society and to take his place and part effectively; he learns duty, obligation and efficiency in many channels of American citizenship. If, then, we add to the purely military and civic features of army training a system whereby a higher degree of economic citizenship is made a source of economic gain of great value. The army and the military establishment would be as efficient a social instrument in times of peace as it would be of protection in international emergency.

That the basic principle of the system Mr. Post proposes is sound in theory and perfectly practicable in application, subject to certain modifications in matters of detail, appears to be obvious, and equally so that it should be developed along with an army reorganization and extension, whether on the volunteer basis of enlistment or upon the basis of universal military training. The plan he proposes is worth most serious study and consideration.

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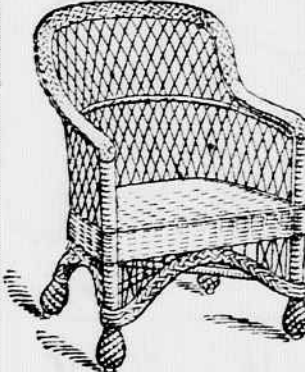
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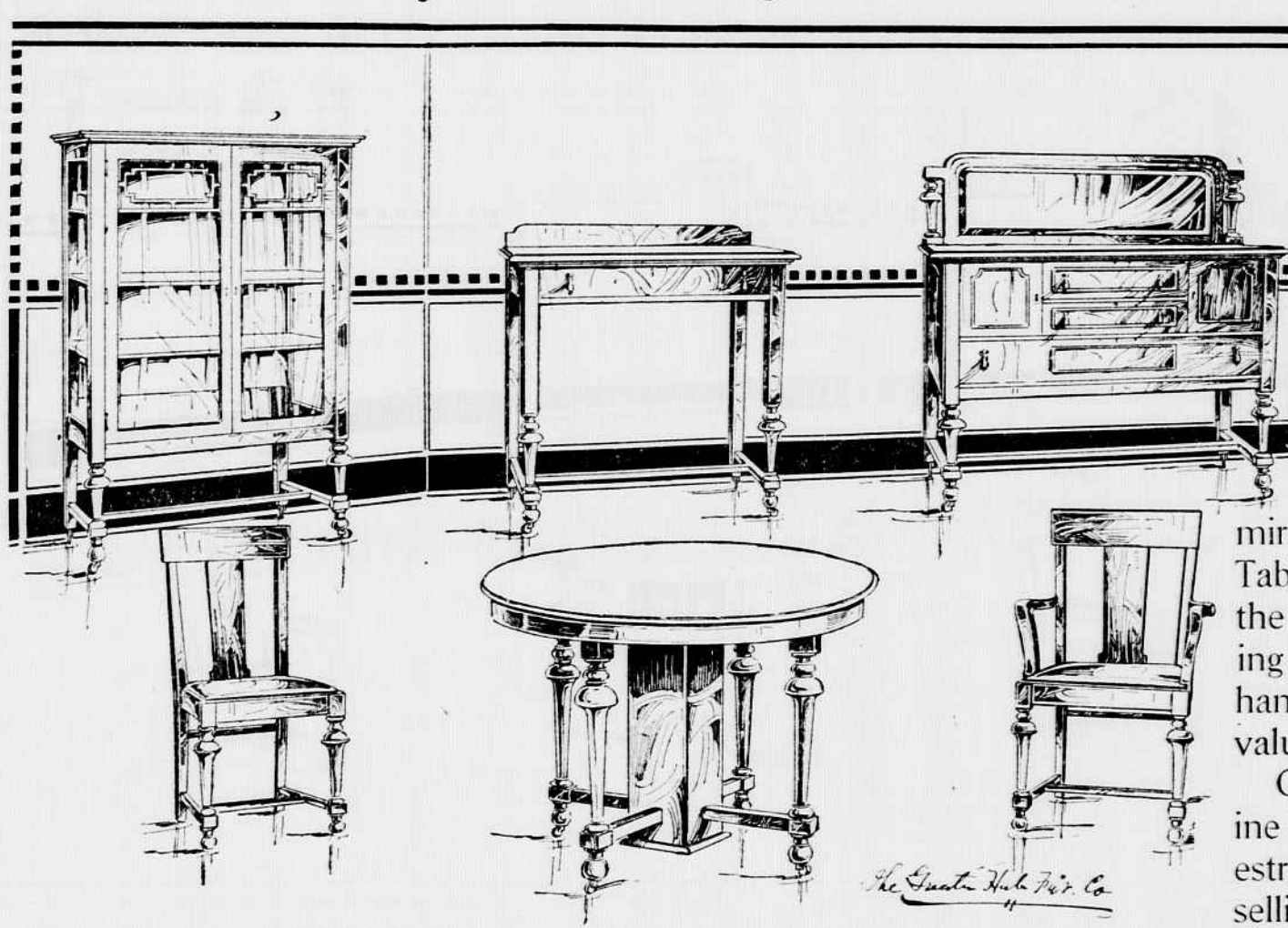
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